

Message Text

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WELLINGTON FOR ASST. SECY. BABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PT, ID, US

SUBJ: US AND TIMOR QUESTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: 75 USUN 6948

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION WHICH INDICATES UN SPECIAL ENVOY WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI (POSSIBLY NOW IN GENEVA) WHO VISITED INDONESIA, TIMOR AND AUSTRALIA IN LATE JANUARY-EARLY FEBRUARY, IS NOW COMPLETING HIS REPORT ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR (PT) FOR SUBMISSION TO UN. GOI REPORTEDLY BELIEVES SECURITY COUNCIL (SC) WILL TAKE UP TIMOR ISSUE SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

2. WHILE WE HAVE NO INFORMATION CONCERNING PROBABLE CONTENTS OF WINSPEARE'S REPORT, HIS INABILITY TO VISIT FRETELIN-HELD PARTS OF PT GIVES RISE TO POSSIBILITY REPORT WILL CONTAIN AT LEAST SOME DEGREE OF CRITICISM OF INDONESIA'S ROLE IN PT, INCLUDING GOI'S INABILITY/UNWILLINGNESS TO ASSIST HIM TO VISIT FRETELIN-HELD AREAS. FACT THAT INDONESIAN FORCES HAVE NOT BEEN WITHDRAWN, AS CALLED FOR IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (REFTEL) INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF CRITICISM OF GOI.

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3. WINSPEARE'S REPORT LIKELY TO INCLUDE THREE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WOULD BE POLITICALLY DELICATE FOR GOI:

A) THAT WINSPEARE RETURN TO TIMOR TO VISIT FRETELIN-HELD AREAS
(UNLESS UDT/APODETI FORCES HAVE WON COMPLETE VICTORY);
B) THAT INDONESIAN TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN AND C) THAT PLEBESCTIE
BE HELD TO ENSURE TIMORESE EXERCISE RIGHT OF
SELF-DETERMINATION CALLED FOR IN SC RESOLUTION (REFTEL).
GIVEN US SUPPORT FOR SC RESOLUTION, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER VIEWS, I BELIEVE WE WILL FEEL OBLIGED TO
VOTE FOR ANY NEW RESOLUTION WHICH INCLUDED THESE POINTS.

4. GIVEN EXTREME INDONESIAN SENSITIVITY PT QUESTION - A
SENSITIVITY HEIGHTENED BY RECENT CRITICISM THAT GOI'S PRO-WESTERN
POLICY HAS LOST IT THIRD WORLD SUPPORT ON PT - OUR ACTIONS
WILL BE CLOSELY OBSERVE HERE. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND
THAT, KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AMB. SANI, WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT
TO ASSURE ANY NEW RESOLUTION SPRINGING FROM WINSPEARE REPORT BE
WORDED IN MANNER REASONABLY ACCEPTABLE TO INDONESIANS. IF WE FIND
THAT, DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, THIS NOT POSSIBLE, I WOULD HOPE
TO BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION TO HIGHEST LEVELS
OF GOI BEFORE WE MAKE IT KNOWN PUBLICLY IN NEW YORK.

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